

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Expanding upon the goals of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, this legislation is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for persons with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits employers covered by the act from discriminating against qualified applicants or employees on the basis of a disability; it guarantees persons with disabilities access to public accommodations, such as offices, hotels, and shopping centers; and it calls for improved access to transportation, State and local government services, and telecommunications as well.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 reaffirms our national commitment to providing persons with disabilities equal opportunities to participate in the social and economic life of our country. During this year's observance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we not only celebrate the enactment of this legislation, but also recognize the many contributions that persons with disabilities have made, and continue to make, in the Nation's workplace.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved August 11, 1945, as amended (36 U.S.C. 155), has called for the designation of the month of October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." This special month is a time for all Americans to join together in recognizing the unlimited potential of persons with disabilities and in renewing our determination to provide equal employment opportunities for them.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of October 1990 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United States to continue working to guarantee for Americans with disabilities equal employment opportunities and the full rights and privileges of citizenship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6204 of October 12, 1990

National Forest Products Week, 1990

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Ever since the first American colonists described for their contemporaries in Europe the splendor of the New World, this country's forests have been recognized around the globe for their majestic beauty. However, our forests have also been an invaluable resource, one that has played a singularly important role in the building of our Nation. Centuries ago, our forests provided Native Americans and European settlers with a variety of foods and raw materials for shelter, tools, and fuel. As the Nation expanded westward, they provided the timbers neces-

sary to build ships and railroads for transportation and commerce, as well as telegraph and telephone lines.

Today we continue to rely on our Nation's forests and forest products in a multitude of ways. Forests serve as the habitat for much of our Nation's wildlife and provide a peaceful, scenic setting for family outings and other recreational activities. They also continue to provide raw materials for fuel, construction, and a variety of wood and paper products.

Although we have the choice of many different building products, we continue to value wood for our homes and furnishings. Wood is strong and durable, yet also flexible and versatile. New technology and techniques for its treatment, preservation, and design continue to increase its usefulness.

The Department of Agriculture reports that forest products contribute 4 percent to the Gross National Product and account for almost 2 million jobs in wood manufacturing and related industries and an estimated \$25 billion in annual wages to working men and women. According to the Department, the forest industry ranks among the top 10 employers in 48 of the 50 States. Forest products thus make a significant contribution to our Nation's economic strength and progress, as well as to our individual physical comfort and well-being.

Unfortunately, in the past, our ancestors did not always recognize the need for careful stewardship of our forest resources. Taking for granted this country's vast, dense forests and striving to meet the great and urgent demands of a growing Nation led to rapid and sometimes wasteful use of forest resources. Forest cut-out and move-out practices were, for too long, assumed to be an inevitable part of development, while conservation strategies were viewed as a limitation on progress. Fortunately, however, a more enlightened view of forest management eventually emerged. Farsighted leaders such as President Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, the Nation's first trained forester, successfully contended that systematic and scientific management of our forests could guarantee their productivity for years to come.

While it is clear that forests can be used to meet consumer needs, it is also clear that they must be replenished in a timely manner—especially when natural regeneration does not appear to be sufficient. Over the years careful studies and experience have helped us to improve management of this precious, yet renewable, resource. Indeed, today's forest managers view the forest as a whole ecosystem that, when handled wisely, can ensure a sustained yield of forest products. Policies and practices developed according to this view are compatible with other environmental interests such as watershed and wildlife protection. Targeting research to develop more environmentally sensitive methods of harvesting forest products and increasing cooperation among government and private forest managers are keys to successful stewardship of this vital natural resource.

Each of us has a stake in the stewardship of our Nation's forests. Ensuring that our children and our children's children are able to enjoy abundant natural resources and a healthy environment calls for personal action. Accordingly, local governments are rapidly organizing recycling programs in which every citizen can participate. Each American can also make a difference by planting trees. Through Federal efforts